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• MACOMB COUNTY'S LARGEST DAILY NEWSPAPER •

Macomb County official snares hugh musky out of Lake St. Clair

“Don’t let anyone tell you Lake St. Clair is polluted”

By Mitch Hotts
Journal Register Newspapers

Macomb County ExLake St. Clair has become known as a world-class destination for musky fishing. Macomb County Deputy Executive Mark Deldin now has proof.

During the Fourth of July weekend, Deldin was on a fishing charter group that caught 18 muskies, including a prize 33-pounder measuring 49 inches he reeled in on the shipping channel near the U.S. and Canadian border.

Any fish over 30 pounds is considered a prize catch.

“It’s the biggest one I ever caught and I’ve been fishing on this lake all my life,” said the 54-year-old Deldin. “We heard estimates that it was between 17 and 20 years old based on its size. It was pretty big.”

While growing up in St. Clair Shores, Deldin lived about a half mile from the lake and frequently went out in a boat to cast for fish along with his father. He’s never lost his appreciation for the sport, the excitement of catching fish and the enjoyment of being out on the water away from the commotion of city life.

“Historically, Lake St. Clair has been renowned for its musky,” he said. “We truly have some great gaming fishing these waters.”

Lake St. Clair covers 420 square miles and its system which includes

the St. Clair River and the Detroit River reportedly has more musky per square mile than anywhere else in the world. There are estimates that the lake has more than 50,000 muskies over 30 inches, according to www.lakestclairmusky.com.

Earlier this month, state and federal officials at a State of the Lake St. Clair and Great Lakes Fisheries in Harrison Township confirmed the overall fish population in the lake, and in particular bass and musky, is thriving.

That’s due in part to cleaner lake water because of lower water levels and invasive species such as zebra mussels clearing the formerly muddy water, allowing a clearer view of the fish.

“Don’t let anyone tell you Lake St. Clair is polluted,” Deldin said. “We have some shoreline issues but overall, the water is crystal clear. This is an outstanding lake we live near.”

Deldin, who formerly worked as superintendent at Chippewa Valley Schools before he was tapped by Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel to join county government, was forced to release the big fish as per state law.

“I’m going to get a replica made but my wife really isn’t into having it on the wall, so it probably will go into the basement,” Deldin said.



Macomb County Deputy Executive Mark Deldin caught a 33-pound musky on a recent charter fishing trip in Lake St. Clair. “It’s the biggest one I ever caught,” said the lifelong amateur fisherman.